

REMARKS

In view of the amendments above and the remarks set forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-51 have been canceled. The cancellations were made solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, and are not to be construed as acquiescence to any objection or rejection of any claim. The Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation or divisional applications directed to the subject matter of the canceled claims.

As no new matter has been added by the amendments, the Applicants respectfully request the entry thereof.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT:

The Applicants note that an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS), including an SB/08A form, was submitted in this application on June 25, 2003. Patent No. EP 0 054689 was filed without a translation. Applicants enclose the translation and respectfully request that the Examiner initial and return this SB/08A form, thereby indicating that the references cited in the IDS have been reviewed and made of record. For the Examiners convenience, a copy of this form is enclosed herewith.

Claim Objections

Claim 49 was objected to as being dependent on a rejected claim. In light of the cancellation of Claim 49 this objection has been made moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-2, 4-10, 33 and 44-48 and 50-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Ouyang and Geisler. In light of the cancellation of these claims, this rejection has been made moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging that Claims 52-63 are free of the prior art and as such constitute allowable subject matter.

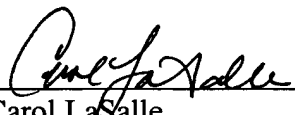
CONCLUSION

The Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number LIFE-040.

Respectfully submitted,
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

Date: 04/22/05

By: 
Carol LaSalle
Registration No. 39,740

Enclosure: Copy of SB/08A form submitted in this application on June 25, 2003.

BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP
1900 University Avenue, Suite 200
East Palo Alto, CA 94304
Telephone: (650) 327-3400
Facsimile: (650) 327-3231

F:\DOCUMENT\LIFE\040\response to oa dated 02-22-05.doc